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**Note to editors/news directors:** A high resolution photo of Edward Reber is available [here](#).

## **INL's Reber and Idaho Explosives Detection System win Homeland Security Award**

From Oklahoma City to the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, foreign and domestic truck bombings have had a detrimental impact on American lives and military personnel.

Edward Reber



In the last two years, scientists at Idaho National Laboratory have been perfecting an explosive detection system to identify the presence of explosives hidden in cargo trucks that enter buildings and military bases. Now, the Idaho Explosives Detection System and its inventors have been awarded a 2005 Homeland Security Award from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation in Washington, D.C. The award was presented Oct. 10 in Washington, D.C.

The annual award ceremony honors cutting-edge innovations that make measurable and constructive contributions in research and development in the area of homeland security. There were four 2005 Homeland Security Award recipients. The Idaho Explosives Detection System won the Border/Transportation Security Award.

"I've always believed that the Idaho Explosives Detection System has the ability to save lives and protect our country," said technical lead Edward Reber, Ph.D. "I'm honored to accept this award for everyone involved in a project that we feel will truly make a difference."

Reber joined Idaho National Laboratory in 1997 following a postdoctoral fellowship at the laboratory. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the State University of New York at Geneseo, and a master's and doctorate in nuclear physics from Florida State University. He is now a staff scientist in the Reactor and Nuclear Physics Group, Nuclear Programs Directorate at INL.

The Idaho Explosives Detection System uses high-energy neutrons to cause nuclear excitation materials within the cargo truck. Detectors attached to the system acquire gamma rays from the nuclear excitations to determine the presence of explosives.

Idaho National Laboratory is one of the Department of Energy's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE — energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center of nuclear energy research and development. Battelle Energy Alliance manages and operates INL for the DOE.

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